

January 8, 1957

Professor William Steere
Department of Biological Sciences
Stanford University
California

Dear Dr. Steere:

Victor Twitty suggested proxying his alter ego for any matters that might come up during his absence in Mexico.

I just wanted to write of our appreciation for the wonderful hospitality that our friends at Stanford showed during our visit, and how much we enjoyed the opportunity to visit the campus.

You know yourself that the question of moving can't be taken lightly or hurriedly. We made a point of enjoying our trip by deferring serious consideration of the Department's very gratifying offer until we were settled back in Madison after the trip -- this we are now doing. We find it particularly helpful that we have some weeks during which to worry the problem, without feeling we might be embarrassing you by procrastination. Since Victor won't be back for some weeks, I gather we would save you very little by an early, perhaps premature, conclusion. It would, of course, be only prudent on the Department's part to be thinking of other alternatives in case they had to be carried through.

I can think of nothing by way of further information that Stanford could furnish at present. Naturally, I am very much concerned at the possible direction that your forthcoming appointment in Biochemistry might take. While on campus, I heard mention of the names of Arthur Kornberg and Bernard Horecker, either of whom would be very attractive possibilities as potential colleagues at Stanford. But I gather it will be some long time yet before any more concrete action is taken on this appointment.

Victor already knows that I am also considering one or two other possible moves, as well as the possibility of a shift to the medical school here at Wisconsin. In some respects, I am happy to be able to weigh these multiple alternatives at the same time, and dispose of them together; you can imagine what sort of distraction these bring about, and another reason that having a few weeks for deliberation is a precious privilege.

Finally, let me acknowledge receipt of Stanford's check reimbursing travel expenses, with my thanks. I would appreciate your showing this letter to Dave Perkins, and whomever else of your colleagues would be concerned and interested.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics